

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12 (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) An input peripheral (1) for a computer or the like, the peripheral comprising a movable portion handled by the operator and fitted with electrical sensors suitable for generating electrical signals for sending to the computer in response to movements imparted to the movable portion by the operator, wherein the movable portion comprises a shell (4) connected to a stationary base (2) by means of joint means configured arranged to allow all possible movements of the shell (4) relative to the base (2) with the exception of movement in translation in a direction substantially perpendicular to the support plane of the base (2).

14. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 13, wherein the joint means comprises a connection element (5) having a first end (6) co-operating with the shell (4) to provide a spherical type connection, and a plane second end (8) slidably received against a plane surface (9) of the base (2).

15. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 14, wherein the first end (6) of the connection element (5) is spherical and is received in a complementary cavity in the shell (4).

16. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 14, wherein the first end (6) of the connection element (5) and the shell (4) includes co-operation means to allow the shell (4) to move about an axis contained in a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base, while uniting the connection element (5) and the shell (4) in rotation about an axis perpendicular to said plane.

17. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 16, wherein the first end (6) of the connection element (5) is spherical and is received in a complementary cavity in the shell (4), and wherein the co-operation means comprise studs (21) extending in an equatorial plane of the spherical end (6) parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base, the studs (21) extending through grooves (24) in the spherical cavity (7) of the shell (4) allowing the shell (4) to move in rotation about an axis contained in the equatorial plane.

18. (currently amended) A peripheral according to claim 16, wherein the first end (6) of the connection element (5) is spherical and is received in a complementary cavity in the shell (4), and wherein the co-operation means comprise fluting (30, 31) with curved flanks extending between the shell (4') and the first end (6') of the support-connection element (5').

19. (currently amended) An input peripheral according to claim 14, including a first slider (10) mounted to slide on the base (2) in a first direction (14) contained in a plane parallel to the plane surface (9) of the base (2), and a second slider (15) slidably mounted in the first slider (10) to slide along a second direction (16) also contained in said plane and perpendicular to the first direction (14), the second slider (15) including means (20, 24; 33, 34) for centering it on the support connection element (5).

20. (previously presented) A peripheral according to claim 14, wherein the support element comprises an anisotropic resilient member (5") bearing firstly against the plane surface of the base and secondly against the shell, being suitable for bending elastically in directions parallel to the plane surface (9") of the base (2").

21. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 13, including return means (22, 23) for returning the shell (4) towards an equilibrium position.

22. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 19, including return means (22, 23) for returning the shell (4) towards an equilibrium position, and wherein the return means comprise helical springs (22) extending between the base (2) and the second slider (15).

23. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 19, including return means (22, 23) for returning the shell (4) towards an equilibrium position, and wherein the return means comprise a helical spring (23) extending between the shell (4) and the second slider (15), and including one end held stationary against the shell (4) and one end held stationary against the second slider (15).

24. (previously presented) An input peripheral according to claim 13, including a member (100) for controlling an additional degree of freedom.

25. (new) An input peripheral according to claim 13, wherein means of joint means configured arranged to allow all possible movements allows five degrees of freedom.

26. (new) An input peripheral according to claim 25, wherein the five degrees of freedom comprises two degrees of freedom in translation in directions that are substantially parallel to a plane of the stationary base (2), and three degrees of freedom in rotation.